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## Upcoming events and announcements:

### BP Oil Spill

As oil continues to hemorrhage into the Gulf of Mexico, coastal states are facing the gravest environmental catastrophe in our nation's history. This should be a wake-up call that our dependence on oil has consequences. While there is no silver bullet to reducing America's reliance on fossil fuels, one thing we know is that improving community livability can reduce energy use and improve people's quality of life. With transportation accounting for one-third of America's carbon emissions and almost three-quarters of U.S. oil consumption, the Livable Communities Task Force is working to [advance policies](#) that help communities provide transportation choices. Reducing gasoline consumption by promoting sustainable development will help reduce our dependence on oil from the Gulf Coast to the Persian Gulf.

### Streetcars

One real way people can reduce oil consumption is by taking public transit. America is witnessing a streetcar revolution, and the nation's capital is at the helm. Mayor Adrian Fenty joined Congressman Blumenauer in May to [unveil Washington, DC's new streetcar](#), which would extend for 37 miles and is expected to be completed by 2030. Investing in streetcars is an investment in the local economy – spurring business growth along the streetcar line, reducing the time people are stuck in cars to get to work, and creating work for people who help build these impressive systems.

### Meeting with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson

In May, members of the Livable Communities Task Force met with the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson for a conversation about how the Federal Government can be a better partner to local community livability efforts. Administrator Jackson discussed EPA's role in the Partnership for Sustainable Communities and how the administration can work with LCTF to advance legislation that improves the livability of America's communities.



From left to right: Mr. Tom Tink and General Administrator Jackson, Rens Schwartz, and the other members of the Livable Communities Task Force.

## Livable Communities Task Force Endorses Administration's Livability Principles

In accordance with the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, the Livable Communities Task Force endorses the following six livability principles. Successful incorporation of these principles into policy making at all levels of government will greatly enhance the livability of all rural and urban American communities. It will also help communities across the country proactively address and adapt to the threats of global warming, spur economic growth, preserve natural resources and open space, and contribute to cleaner air and water. The principles are as follows:

- **Provide more transportation choices.** Develop safe, reliable, and economical transportation choices to decrease household transportation costs, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote public health.
- **Promote equitable, affordable housing.** Expand location- and energy-efficient housing choices for people of all ages, incomes, races, and ethnicities to increase mobility and lower the combined cost of housing and transportation.
- **Enhance economic competitiveness.** Improve economic competitiveness through reliable and timely access to employment centers, educational opportunities, services and other basic needs by workers, as well as expanded business access to markets.
- **Reinvest in existing communities.** Target federal funding toward existing communities—through strategies like transit oriented, mixed-use development, and land recycling—to increase community revitalization and the efficiency of public works investments and safeguard rural landscapes.

- **Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment.** Align federal policies and funding to remove barriers to collaboration, leverage funding, and increase the accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth, including making smart energy choices such as locally generated renewable energy.
- **Value communities and neighborhoods.** Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods—rural, urban, or suburban.

## Members of the LCTF Meet with HUD Secretary Donovan



On Wednesday, Dec. 9, members of the Livable Communities Task Force met with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan. The Secretary briefed the members on HUD's role in the DOT/HUD/EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The members then discussed ideas for how Congress could be a partner in the efforts to promote sustainable communities.



